Job opportunities for SCs/STs/OBCs

*493. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of persons belonging to ST/ST and OBC registered with all the employment exchanges in the country, category-wise;

(b) the steps taken by Government to provide employment to these categories of people belonging to weaker sections; and

(c) whether Government would impart job-oriented training to them to make them eligible to get jobs that are available to skilled persons?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) Percentage of SC, ST and OBC job seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the live register of employment exchanges in the country as on 31st December 2003 was 16.00 percent, 5.6 percent and 19.9 percent respectively.

There is a provision for reservation of jobs for SC/ST and OBC candidates in Public Sector. Special recruitment drives for filling up the reserved vacancies are launched as and when felt necessary.

With a view to enhance the employability of SC and ST job seekers registered with the employment exchanges, Ministry of Labour & Employment provides career counselling, vocational guidance, skill training in typing/shorthand, short terms training on Computer operations, besides providing coaching to prepare them to compete in examinations organized by various public sector Recruitment Agencies/Selection Boards for Group C posts.

WLL base stations in Assam

*496. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that WLL base stations have been sanctioned to clear the waitlist for telephone connection in Kamrup Telecom District of Assam;

(b) if so, the number of WLL stations sanctioned;

(c) whether it is a fact that the WLL BTS equipment is yet to be sent to site; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) WLL BTSs have been sanctioned with a view to clear the waiting list.

(b) to (c) A total of 4 (four) WLL base stations have already been commissioned so far in rural area and 1 (one) in urban area in Kamrup Telecom District of Assam. Another 6 (six) WLL BTSs are planned to be installed in rural area and 13 (thirteen) in urban area of Kamrup Telecom District. The planned BTSs are to be provided from 10.5 lakh WLL procurement tender. The tender is under Technical evaluation and after finalization of the tender, the Purchase Orders are to the placed and equipment is to be sent to the site subsequently.

Opening of additional passport office in Mumbai

†*497. SHRI DATTAMEGHE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many applications for issuance of passport are pending in the country, particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to open one more passport office in Mumbai for quick disposal of the pending applications in view of heavy work load in the existing Mumbai office;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes Sir, as on 15.4.2005, approximately 1,57,527 passport applications are pending in 30 Passport Offices. However, in Maharashtra state, the pendency is only 1245 in Mumbai, 1406 in Nagpur, 307 in Pune and Nil in Thane.

(b) No, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.